

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01929 221151Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1929

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA'S COMMENTS ON US-SPANISH
NEGOTIATIONS

1. AT A DINNER MARCH 21, I HAD A BRIEF TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA REGARDING US-SPANISH NEGOTIATIONS.
2. REFERRING TO THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MADRID, CORTINA SAID HE THOUGH IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT PROGRESS BE MADE SINCE TIME WAS GROWING SHORT. HE MADE HIS USUAL COMMENT ABOUT THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH SPAIN IS MAKING TO THE NATO DEFENSIVE POSTURE. HE BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A FORMULA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SOME DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION FOR SPAIN WITH NATO MILITARY STRUCTURE AND PLANNING. HE THOUGH THAT THE ONLY COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD REALLY CAUSE DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE HOLLAND, DENMARK AND NORWAY WHOSE MAIN INTERESTS SEEMED TO BE THE DEFENSE OF THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL SECTORS. HE BELIEVED THAT GERMANY, FRANCE, TO SOME EXTENT ITALY, AND THE UK (IN SPITE OF THE GIBRALTAR PROBLEM) WOULD TAKE A REASONABLE ATTITUDE TOWARD SPANISH ASSOCIATION. I TOLD CORTINA THAT THIS WAS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM AND I WONDERED WHETHER IN THE TIME BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE WHAT HE HAD IN MIND. TO THIS CORTINA REPLIED THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE SEEMED TO BE DIFFICULT OBSTACLES TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, NONETHELESS A FORMULA HAD BEEN FOUND WHICH PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPATION AND YET RESERVED A
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PAGE 02 MADRID 01929 221151Z

CERTAIN LIBERTY OF ACTION. HE MADE CLEAR HIS BELIEF THAT WITH

SOME INGENUITY AND WITH THE HELP OF THE US AND CERTAIN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, A FORMULA COULD BE FOUND. I COMMENTED THAT IT WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO COMPARE THE ARRANGEMENT FOR IEA AND ASSOCIATION WITH NATO.

3. I ALSO HAD OCCASION TO SPEAK BRIEFLY WITH THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL DIEZ ALEGRIA, WHO NOW, OF COURSE, IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PICTURE WITH RESPECT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, DIEZ ALEGRIA MADE THE POINT THAT WITH MANY PEOPLE IN SPAIN OPPOSED TO THE EXTENT OF THE FACILITIES GRANTED TO THE US, IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND SOME NEW "LOOK" FOR THE AGREEMENT WHICH, WHILE IT WOULD PROVIDE US WITH WHAT WE NEEDED, WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE GOS TO PRESENT THE NEW AGREEMENT AS SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

4. COMMENT: NONE OF THE ABOVE IS NEW, BUT IT DOES SERVE TO UNDERLINE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE GOS IS INCREASINGLY THINKING.
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